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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
OMB-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /097 W
----------021413 170817Z /14
R 161635Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5081
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
DIA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
COMUSFORAZ
AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 1970

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: PRESIDENCY WILL PUSH FOR RENEWAL OF AZORES ACCORD

REF: (A) LISBON 1826 (DTG 101908Z MAR 78) (NOTAL)
(B) LISBON 1898 (DTG 141652Z MAR 78) (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR LUIS MARTINS SAYS THE PRESIDENT IS PREPARED TO PRESS THE GOVERNMENT TO REACH A NEW AZORES AGREEMENT. SOARES, HOWEVER, COULD CONCLUDE THAT
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THE WISEST POLITICAL COURSE IS TO GO SLOW. WE INTEND TO PRESS FOR PROMPT ACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A MARCH 14 CONVERSATION WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, PRESIDENTIAL DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR LUIS MARTINS REVIEWED THE PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATION MARCH 10 WITH THE AMBASSADOR (REF A), HIGHLIGHTS OF MARTINS

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COMMENTS INCLUDED:

(A) AZORES NEGOTIATIONS: THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTOOD
COMPLETELY THE AMBASSAODR'S MESSAGE REGARDING THE NEED
TO CONCLUDE PROMPTLY A RENEWAL OF THE AZORES BASE AGREEMENT.
THE PRESIDENT AGREES AND IS PREPARED TO TAKE ACTION TO HELP
INSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS THROUGH. MARTINS SAID
HE WOULD PURSUE THE MATTER PERSONALLY IN THE NAME OF THE
PRESIDENT IN DISCUSSIONS DURING THE CURRENT WEEK WITH
CAPT ALMEIDA E COSTA, NEWLY APPOINTED HEAD OF THE CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE FOR THE AZORES AND MADEIRA. MARTINS SAID HE
WOULD ALSO REMIND FOREIGN MINISTER SA MACHADO OF THE
PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN PROMPT ACTION.
(B) AZOREAN SEPARATISM: THE SITUATION IN THE AZORES IS
WELL WITHIN TOLERABLE LIMITS. JOSE ALMEIDA
AND OTHER FLA ACTIVISTS MAEK MUCH NOISE BUT HAVE SCANT
SUPPORT. THE PRESIDENT HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING THINGS
IN THE AZORES GET OUT OF HAND. TO UNDERSCORE THE POINT,
MARTINS NOTED THAT EANES WOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE FORCE
IF NECESSARY TO RETAIN PORTUGUESE SOVEREIGNTY IN THE ISLANDS.
(C) RELATIONS WITH AFRICA: PORTUGAL'S RELATIONS WITH ITS
FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES CONTINUE TO DEVELOP UNEVENLY.
-- RELATIONS WITH GUINEA-BISSAU ARE PROGRESSING
SATISFACTORILY.
-- RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE ARE CORRECT AND IMPROVING.
-- RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA ARE UNCERTAIN AT BEST.
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ANGOLA REMAINS THE BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT. PRESIDENT NETO,
UNLIKE SAMORA MACHEL IN MOZAMBIQUE, DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT
AUTHORITY TO MAKE HIS WORK STICK. DESPITE HIS ESPOUSAL
OF MARXIST-LENINISM, MACHEL'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN RESIDUAL
LINKS WITH MAOIST CHINA WHILE HE CULTIVATES THE USSR GIVES
THE PORTUGUESE SOME ROOM MANEUVER. NETO, ON THE OTHER
HAND, APPEARS INCREASINGLY THE CAPTIVE OF THE SOVIETS AND
THE CUBANS. PORTUGUESE POLICY IS DESIGNED TO EXPLOIT THE
SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE WHILE CLARIFYING RELATIONS WITH
ANGOLA. PRESIDENT EANES HAS MAINTAINED A FRUITFUL
CORRESPONDENCE WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL. EXCHANGE OF LETTERS
HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN BLUNT, BUT MACHEL SEEMS TO RESPECT
STRENGTH. PORTUGUESE POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA IS DESIGNED TO
FORCE NETO TO DECLARE HIMSELF, HIS ACCEPTANCE OF INCREASING
NUMBERS OF CUBAN TECHNICIANS IS NOT ENCOURAGING. PRESIDENT
EANES HOPES EVENTS WILL EVENTUALLY PERMIT PERSONAL MEETINGS
WITH BOTH MICHEL AND NETO.
(D) PRESIDENTIAL TRAVELS: EANES WILL BE DEPARTING FOR
BRAZIL DURING THE THIRD WEEK IN MAY. HE WILL SUBSEQUENTLY
TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL NATO MEETING.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LISBON 1970

HE PLANS TO ARRIVE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF MAY 29 AND
DEPART ON THE EVENING OF MAY 31. HE HOPES A MEETING CAN
BE ARRANGED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER TO ENABLE EANES TO
CONTINUE THE FRUITFUL PERSONAL DIALOGUE BEGUN IN LONDON
LAST YEAR. MARTIS SAID EANES, DESPITE HIS FORMALITY
AND DIFFIDENCE, HAD TAKEN AN IMMEDIATE LIKING TO PRESIDENT
CARTER. EANES STILL RECALLED PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMAKR
TO HIM THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING AGAIN WHEN THEY
WOULD HAVE MORE TIME TO TALK. MARTINS ADDED THAT EANES
OFTEN COMMENTED TO HIS STAFF ON HOW WELL HE HAD GOTTEN
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ALONG WITH PRESIDENT CARTER.

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2. COMMENT: THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PRESIDENCY TO WEIGHT IN ON BEHALF OF PROMPT ACTION ON RENEWAL OF THE AZORES AGREEMENT IS GOOD NEWS. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LATIN AMERICA, SOARES TOLD THE AMBASSADOR HE WOULD TAKE STEPS TO MOVE THINGS ALONG (REF B). BUT THE COMPETING INTERESTS, INCLUDING THE CENTRAL GOVERNEMNT/REGIONAL GOVERNMENT RIVALRY AND THE DIFFCULTY OF DIVIDING THE MILITARY QUID AMONG THE THREE SERVICES, WILL COMPLICATE MATTERS. SOARES, ALWAYS THE ASTUTE POLITICIAN, COULD CONCLUDE THAT THE WISEST POLITICAL COURSE IS TO GO SLOW. WE INTEND TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR MOVEMENT.
BLOOMFIELD

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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